



**DARK NIGHTS**

**1**

# BATMAN™

## THE RED DEATH

**metal**  
**TIE-IN**

RATED **T+** TEEN PLUS DCCOMICS.COM NOV 2017

**Williamson**  
**Di Giandomenico**  
**Plascencia**





**DARK NIGHTS**

**1**

# BATMAN™

## THE RED DEATH

**TEEN**  
**TEEN**





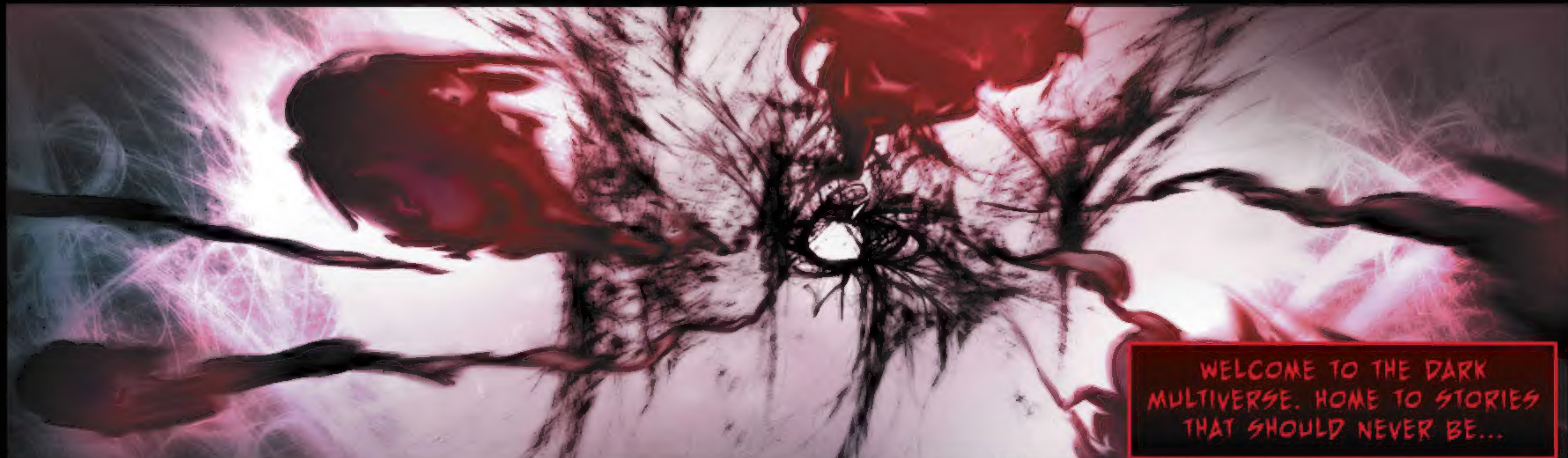
STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS ONE...

...WORLDS WILL  
LIVE, WORLDS  
WILL DIE...

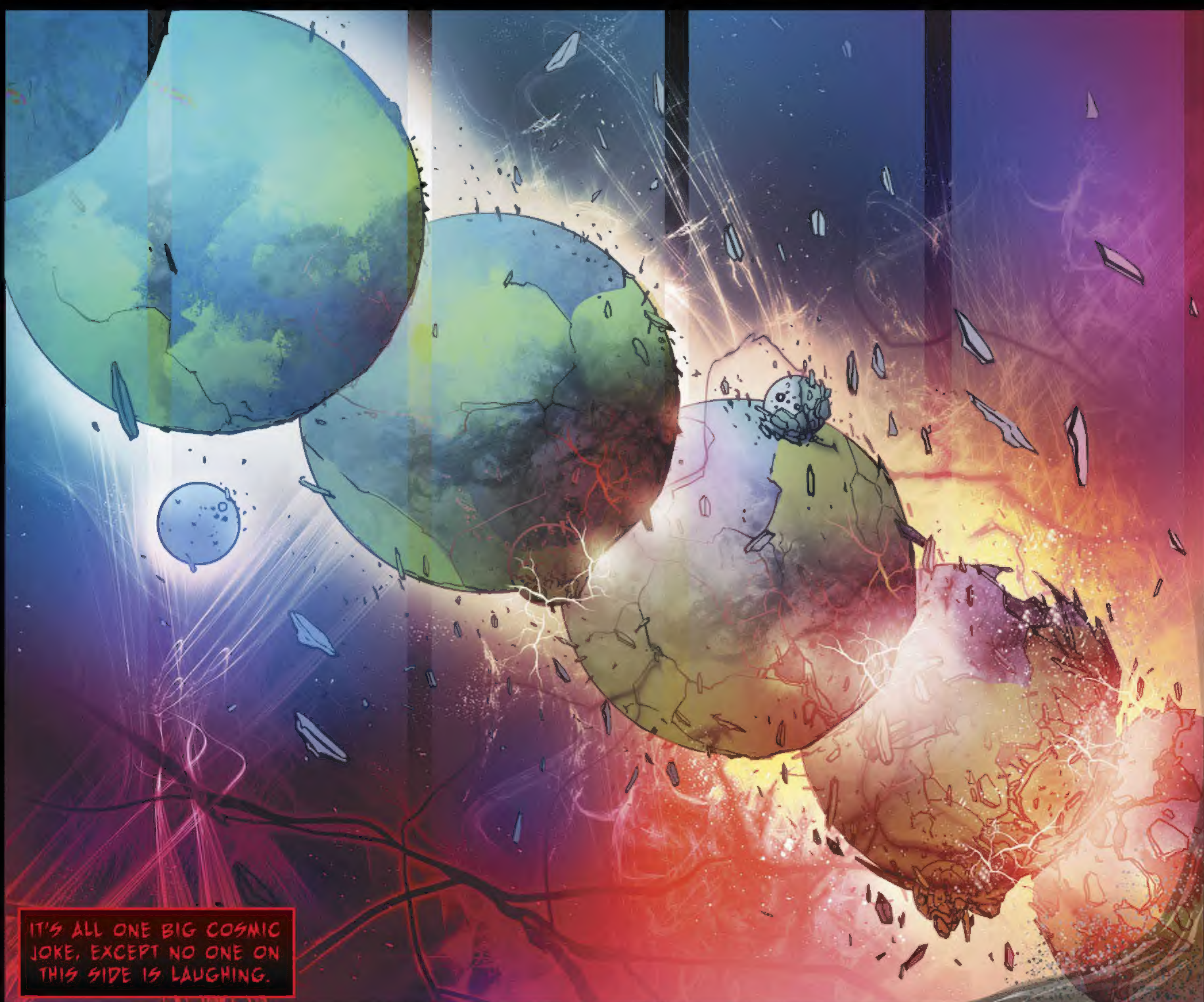
BUT IMAGINE IF YOUR  
EVERY FEAR, EACH BAD  
DECISION, GAVE BIRTH  
TO A MALFORMED WORLD  
OF NIGHTMARE.

A WORLD THAT SHOULDN'T  
EXIST, AND DESPERATE AS  
IT FIGHTS TO SURVIVE IN  
THE LIGHT OF THE TRUE  
MULTIVERSE FAR ABOVE...

THESE WORLDS ARE  
DOOMED TO ROT APART,  
AND DIE, BECAUSE THEY  
ARE **WRONG** AT THEIR  
CORE.



WELCOME TO THE DARK  
MULTIVERSE. HOME TO STORIES  
THAT SHOULD NEVER BE...



IT'S ALL ONE BIG COSMIC  
JOKE, EXCEPT NO ONE ON  
THIS SIDE IS LAUGHING.



...WELL,  
ALMOST NO  
ONE...

LISTEN CLOSE, NOW.  
THIS IS A STORY OF A  
WORLD'S END, AND A  
WORLD TRANSFORMED.

WITNESS  
THE RISE OF A  
DARK KNIGHT.

# BATMAN

THE RED DEATH  
IN  
**RIDE THE  
LIGHTNING**

WRITER: JOSHUA WILLIAMSON ART: CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO  
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SPECIAL THANKS TO SCOTT SNYDER AND JAMES TYNION IV  
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

**Earth -52.**

IT'S  
GETTING  
WORSE!

CENTRAL  
CITY IS COMING  
APART!





A full-page comic book illustration of Batman standing amidst the wreckage of a building. He is wearing his tactical suit and cowl, holding a glowing blue sword in his right hand and a small, glowing blue device in his left. The background is a chaotic scene of fire, smoke, and falling debris. The lighting is dramatic, with bright orange and yellow flames contrasting with the dark, smoky environment. Batman's expression is stern and determined.

AS  
USUAL, YOU'RE  
ALREADY LATE,  
FLASH.

IT'S  
TIME YOU  
LET SOMEONE  
**ELSE** HAVE  
THE SPEED  
FORCE.





BATMAN,  
I TOLD  
YOU!

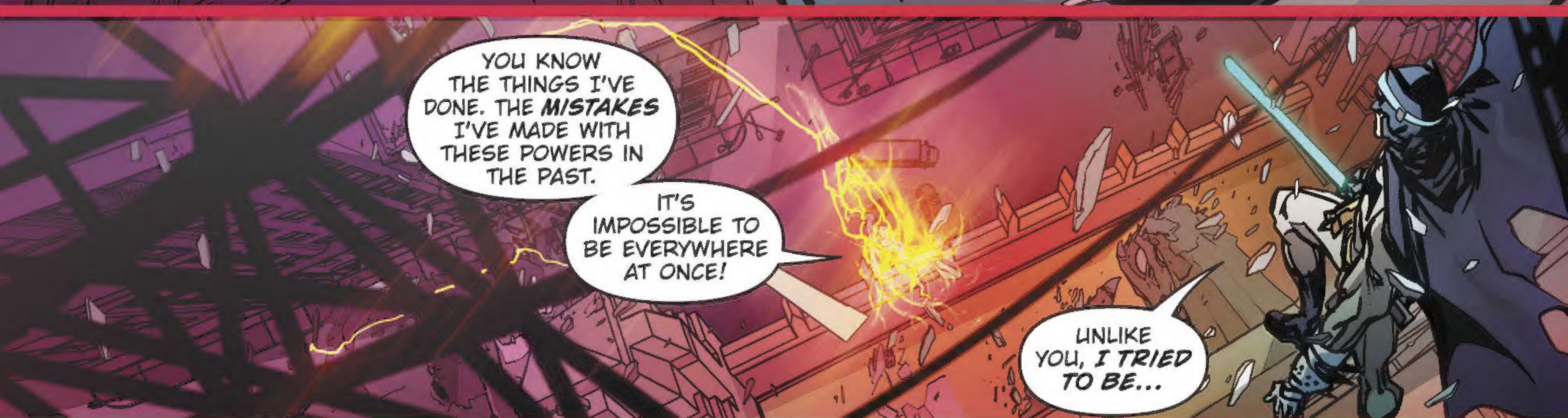
I WON'T  
GIVE YOU  
THE SPEED  
FORCE.

I'VE LOST  
PEOPLE I  
LOVED, TOO,  
BUT...



THEN  
YOU SHOULD  
UNDERSTAND!

IF YOU  
DON'T HELP  
ME WILLINGLY...  
I'LL MAKE  
YOU!



YOU KNOW  
THE THINGS I'VE  
DONE. THE *MISTAKES*  
I'VE MADE WITH  
THESE POWERS IN  
THE PAST.

IT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE TO  
BE EVERYWHERE  
AT ONCE!

UNLIKE  
YOU, I TRIED  
TO BE...



"...AND IT COST  
ME MY FAMILY!"



USING ONE  
OF MIRROR  
MASTER'S  
OLD TRICKS...  
*REALLY?*



ALL  
THE *ROGUES'*  
WEAPONS, WHY DO YOU  
THINK *YOU'LL* SUCCEED  
WITH THEM AGAINST  
ME, WHEN *THEY*  
COULDN'T?

YOU'RE  
RIGHT--





--MY TOYS ARE BETTER!

TARGET  
TARGET  
TARGET  
TARGET  
TARGET

IT DIDN'T HAVE TO COME TO THIS. I ASKED YOU FOR *HELP* AND YOU REJECTED ME!

IF OUR ROLES WERE FLIPPED I WOULD HAVE USED EVERY TOOL AT MY DISPOSAL TO GET YOU WHAT YOU NEEDED.

CAROLINE REEDER



I SAID NO BECAUSE OF YOUR *PLANS* FOR THE SPEED FORCE...IT IS A DARK *PATH* TO RUN!

I CAN SEE YOU'RE DESPERATE AND HURTING!



AFTER MY PARENTS WERE MURDERED I TRAVELED THE WORLD TO LEARN EVERYTHING ABOUT SCIENCE, MARTIAL ARTS AND THE SUPERNATURAL TO BECOME *BATMAN*!

AND IT WASN'T ENOUGH!



NOT FOR JASON! TIM! DICK! AND DAMIAN...

GOTHAM DID WHAT IT ALWAYS DOES.

IT TAKES AND TAKES AND TAKES.

I NEED TO FIND A WAY TO STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF IT...



BUT WITH EACH DAY, I FEEL MYSELF GETTING OLDER AND SLOWER.

I *NEED* THE SPEED FORCE.













I STUDIED YOUR DESIGNS FOR THE COSMIC TREADMILL AND REPURPOSED ITS ENGINE TO LET ME HARNESS YOUR CONNECTION TO THE SPEED FORCE!

GOD!  
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!



I WILL RACE INTO THE SPEED FORCE... AND STEAL IT FROM YOU!



BRUCE... DON'T...?



THE MISTAKE I MADE WHEN I VOWED TO MY PARENTS THAT I WOULD SAVE GOTHAM IS THAT I WAS THINKING TOO SMALL.

I SHOULD HAVE PROMISED TO SAVE THE WORLD.





YOU CAN'T  
ACCESS THE  
SPEED FORCE  
THIS WAY!

YOU CAN'T  
FORCE IT!

IT  
WILL RIP  
US BOTH  
APART!



I  
KNOW.



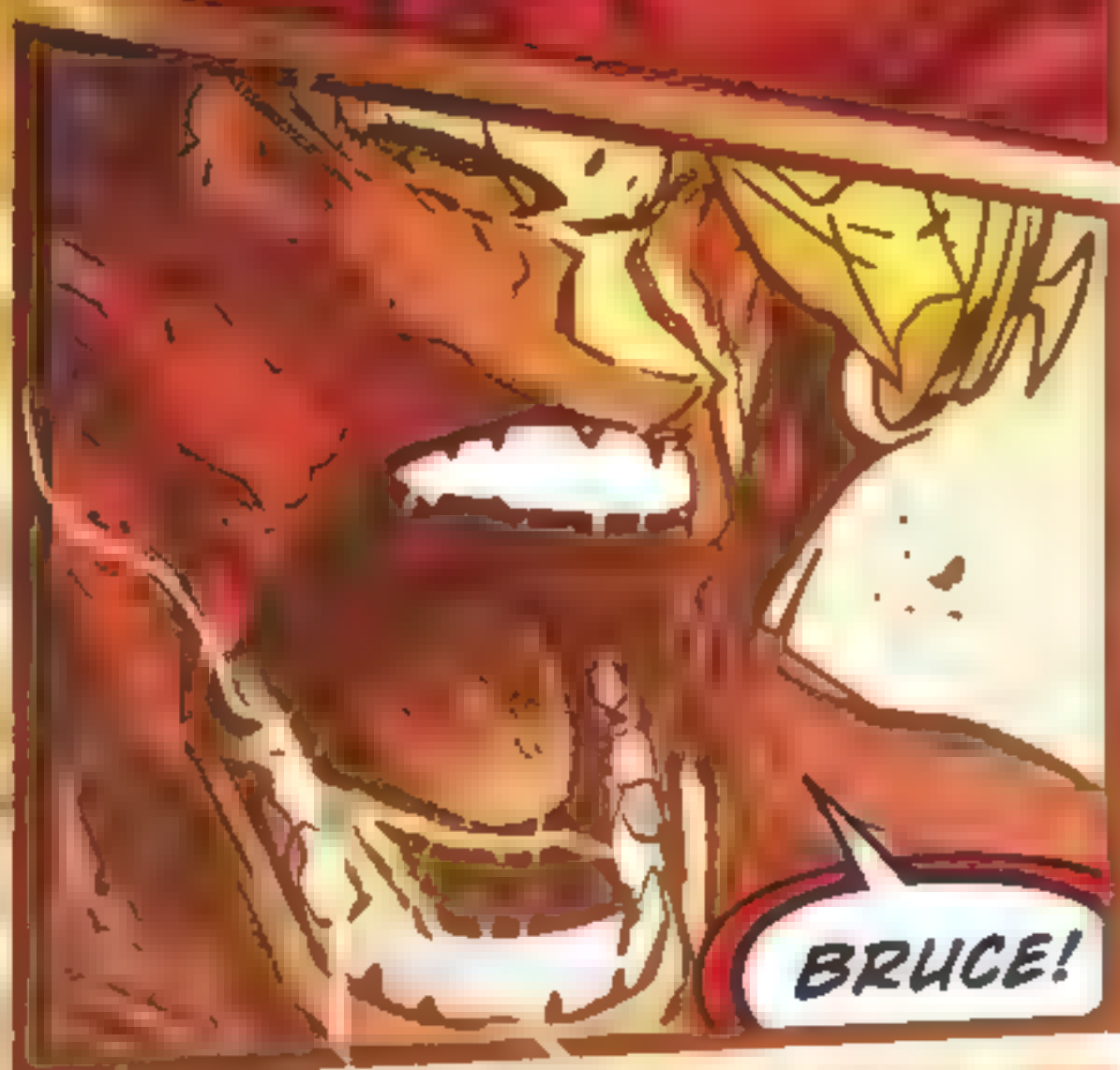
BUT NOW  
WE CAN SAVE  
THE WORLD...



TOGETHER.



NO!



BRUCE!



YOU  
CAN'T GIVE  
UP LIKE THIS,  
BRUCE...



I'M  
SORRY,  
BARRY.



PLEASE!



TH-THERE'S  
HOPE.



BRUCE!



# Gotham City.

EVER SINCE THE RED SKIES APPEARED, CRIME HAS ESCALATED AT AN UNHEARD-OF RATE IN GOTHAM WITH NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN!

BEGIN EVACUATION PROCEDURES IMMEDIATELY.

RIOTS! LOOTING!

WE NEED BACKUP! NOW!

WORST CRIME WAVE IN GOTHAM CITY HISTORY!

THE BACKUP IS DEAD!

IT'S TIME WE BLOW UP THE BRIDGES AND TURN IT INTO A NO-MAN'S-LAND AND FINALLY...

KILL GOTHAM OFF ONCE AND FOR ALL!

THIS WAY! I KNOW A BACK WAY OUT OF DOWNTOWN!

I'M SO SCARED!

WHAT YOU'RE EXPERIENCING IS A FORM OF THANATOPHOBIA.

A PARTICULARLY HARSH CASE OF THE DOOMSDAY BLUES.

IT'S PERFECTLY NATURAL IN TIMES LIKE THESE, BUT LET SCARECROW ASSURE YOU...

THE END IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

TRUST ME...

I'M A DOCTOR.





MY NAME IS  
BRUCE WAYNE.

...

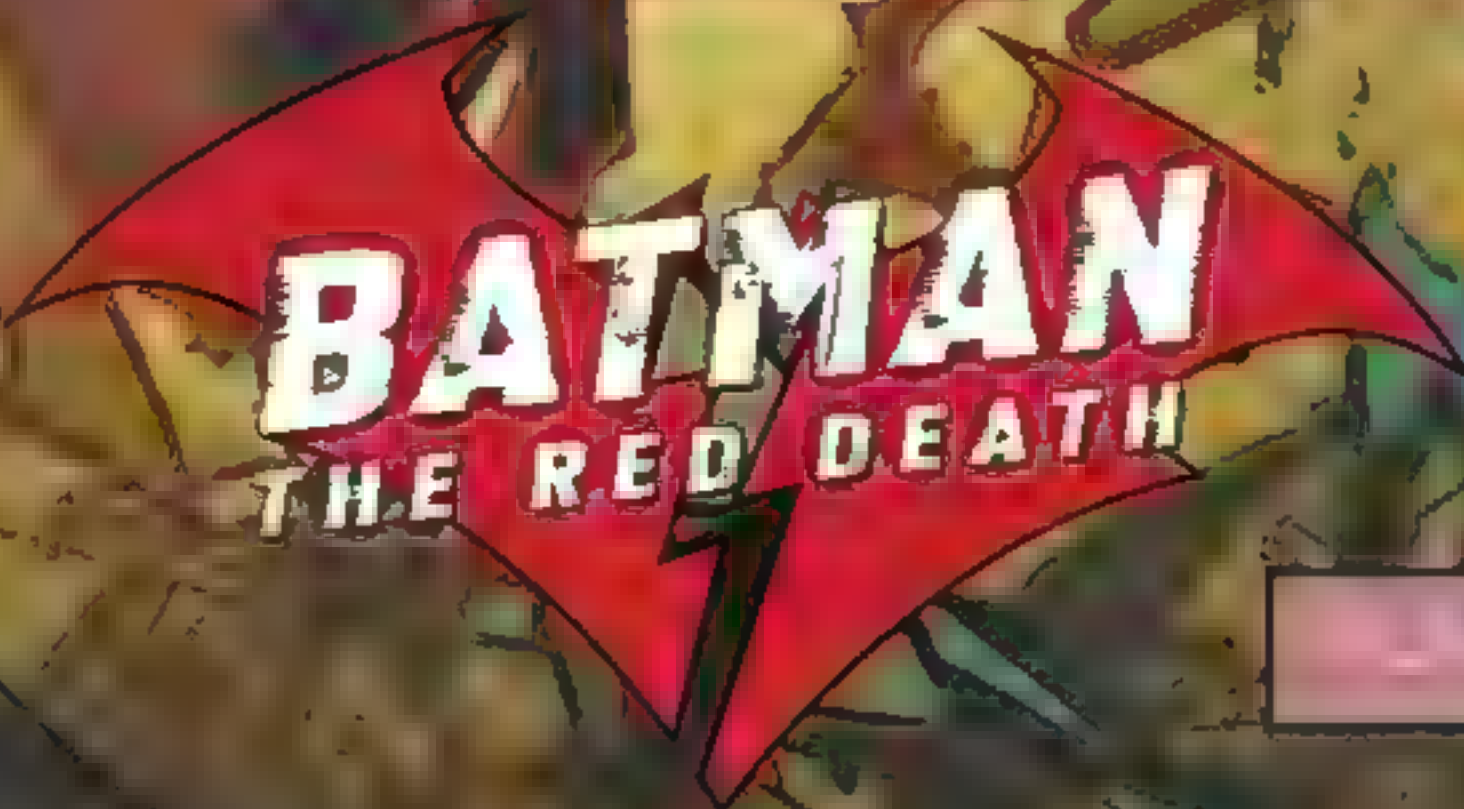
I AM  
VENGEANCE.

...

I AM  
JUSTICE.

...

I AM...



**BATMAN**  
THE RED DEATH

...



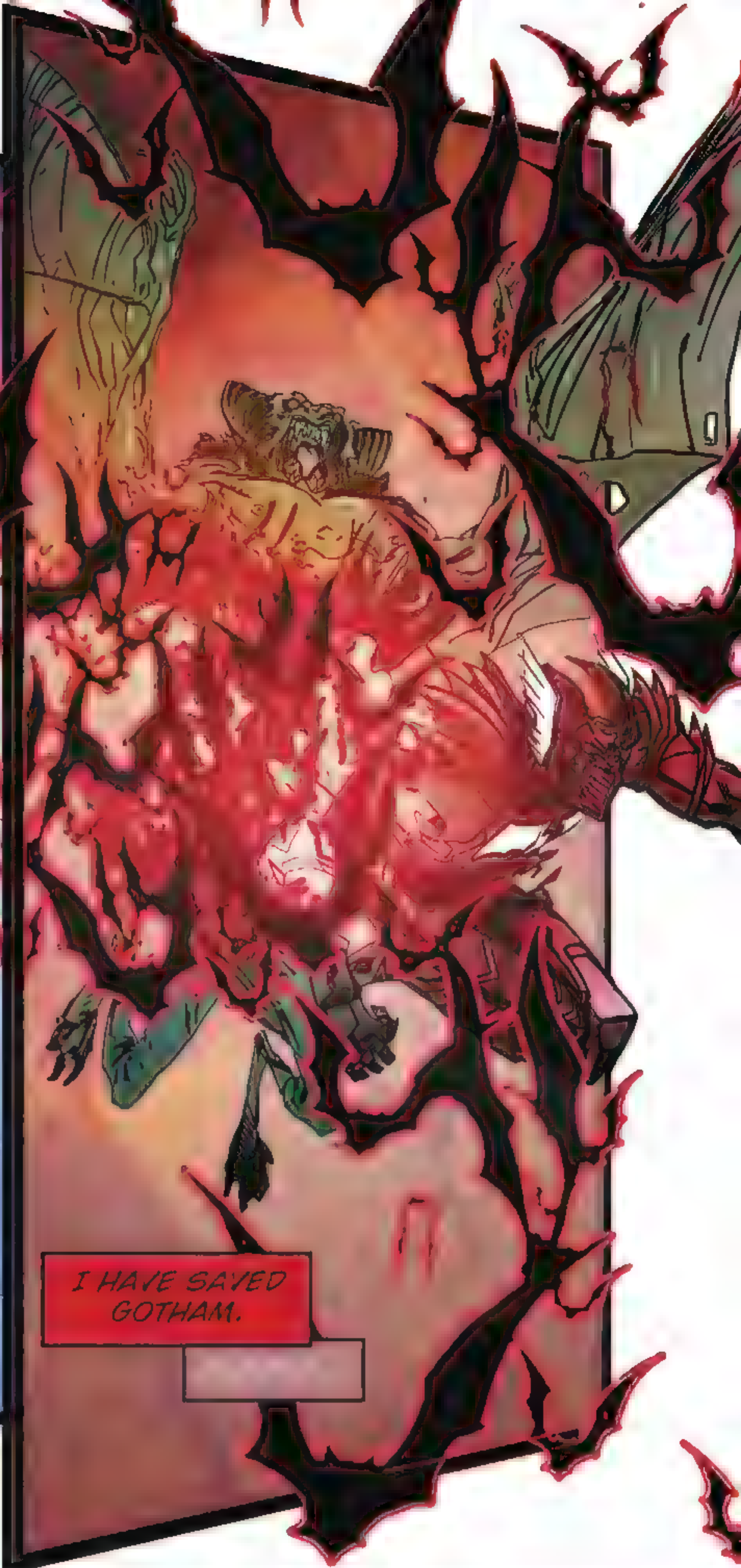


BEFORE I USED  
TO SPEND SO MUCH  
TIME ALONE ON ROOFTOPS  
DWELLING ON MY ACTIONS...

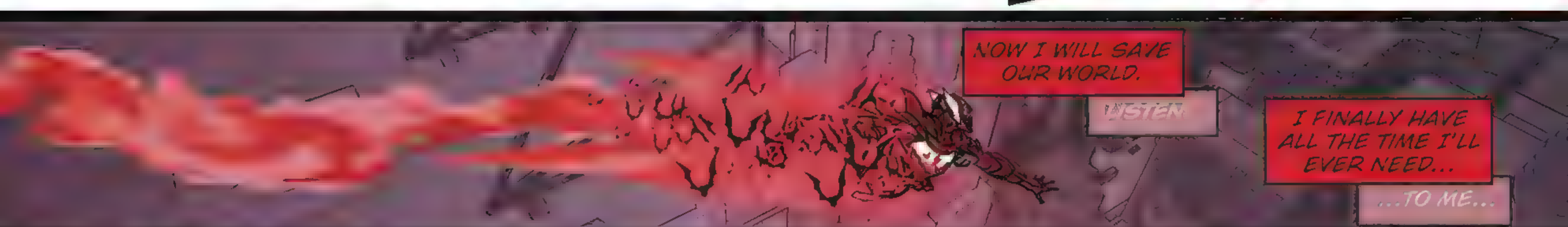
BUT NOW I  
DON'T HAVE TIME  
TO THINK TWICE  
WITH THE SPEED  
FORCE.



IT'S  
RELEASED  
ME.



I HAVE SAVED  
GOTHAM.



NOW I WILL SAVE  
OUR WORLD.

LISTEN

I FINALLY HAVE  
ALL THE TIME I'LL  
EVER NEED...

...TO ME...



WAYNE  
TOWER...IS  
FALLING?!  
WHAT IS...



...HAPPENING?

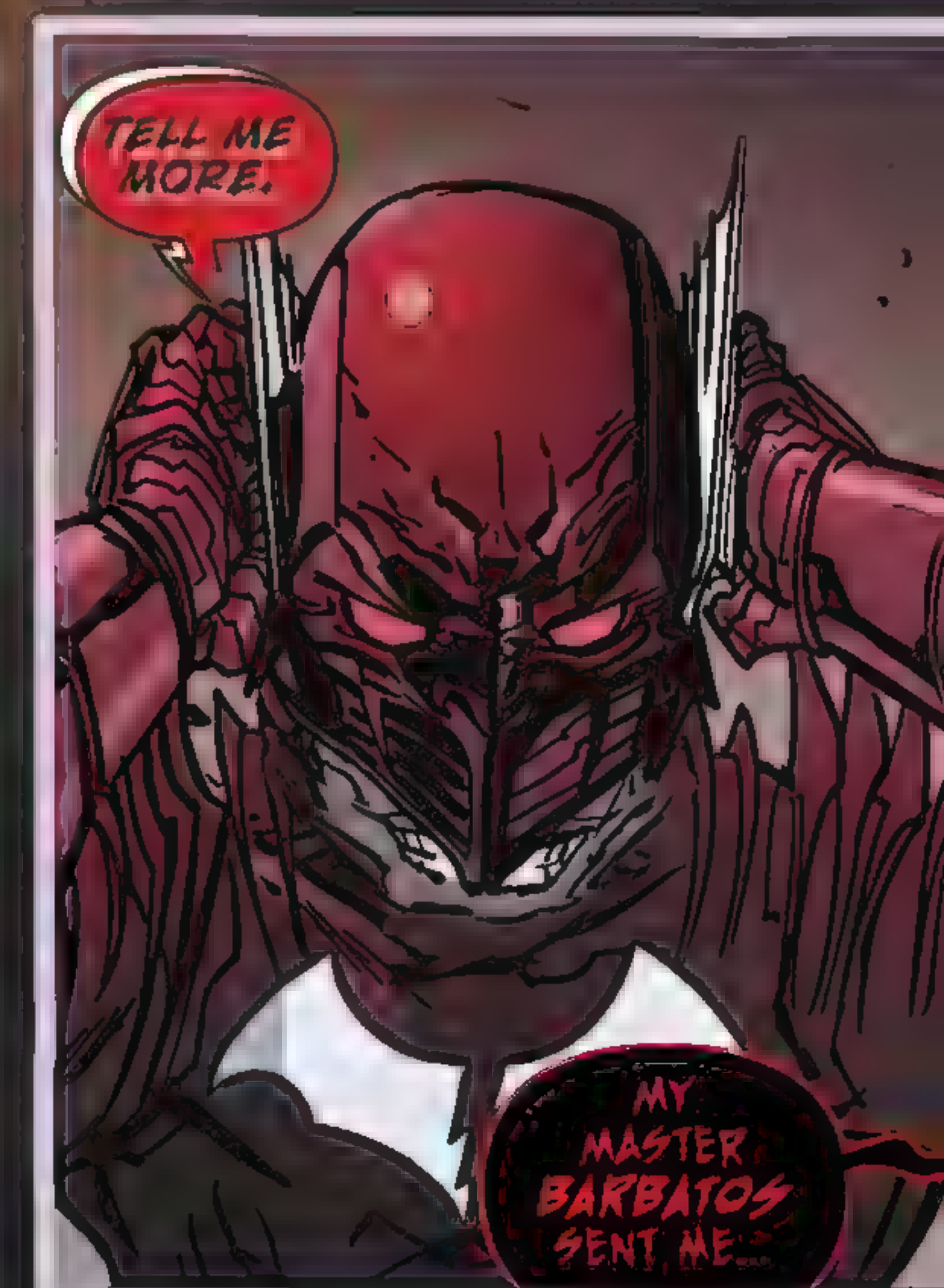
THE  
SKY...





THE WORLD...IT'S BREAKING APART.

I'M NOT FAST ENOUGH TO SAVE IT.





TO  
FIND A FEW GOOD  
HEROES WHO COULD  
CONQUER THAT WORLD  
TO MAKE A HOME FOR  
ALL OF US ORPHANED  
BY THE DARKNESS

# Earth-0. First World of the Multiverse.

WHAT DO YOU  
SAY? DO WE  
GOTTA DEAL?

## Central City.

THREE DAYS  
AFTER CHALLENGERS  
MOUNTAIN APPEARED  
IN GOTHAM CITY.

THANKS  
FOR MEETING  
WITH ME, AUNT  
IRIS.

IT'S OKAY, WALLY. I'VE  
BEEN COVERING THE  
INCIDENT IN GOTHAM  
AND NEEDED THE  
BREAK.

WELL, OFF  
THE RECORD, BUT  
SUPERMAN SENT A  
MESSAGE TO EVERY HERO  
TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR  
BATMAN. EVEN ROBIN  
REACHED OUT AND HE  
HATES ME.

THAT MEANS  
WHATEVER IS GOING  
ON IS **REAL  
BAD.**

DOUBT BATMAN  
WOULD EVER COME  
TO CENTRAL  
CITY.

TRUE.  
WE HAVE  
OUR HERO,  
RIGHT?

WALLY...

BARRY  
SHOULD BE  
HERE. WITH  
US.

I ASKED  
BARRY  
FOR SOME  
TIME.

WHAT  
IF YOU  
WAIT TOO  
LONG...

WHAT IS  
THAT?

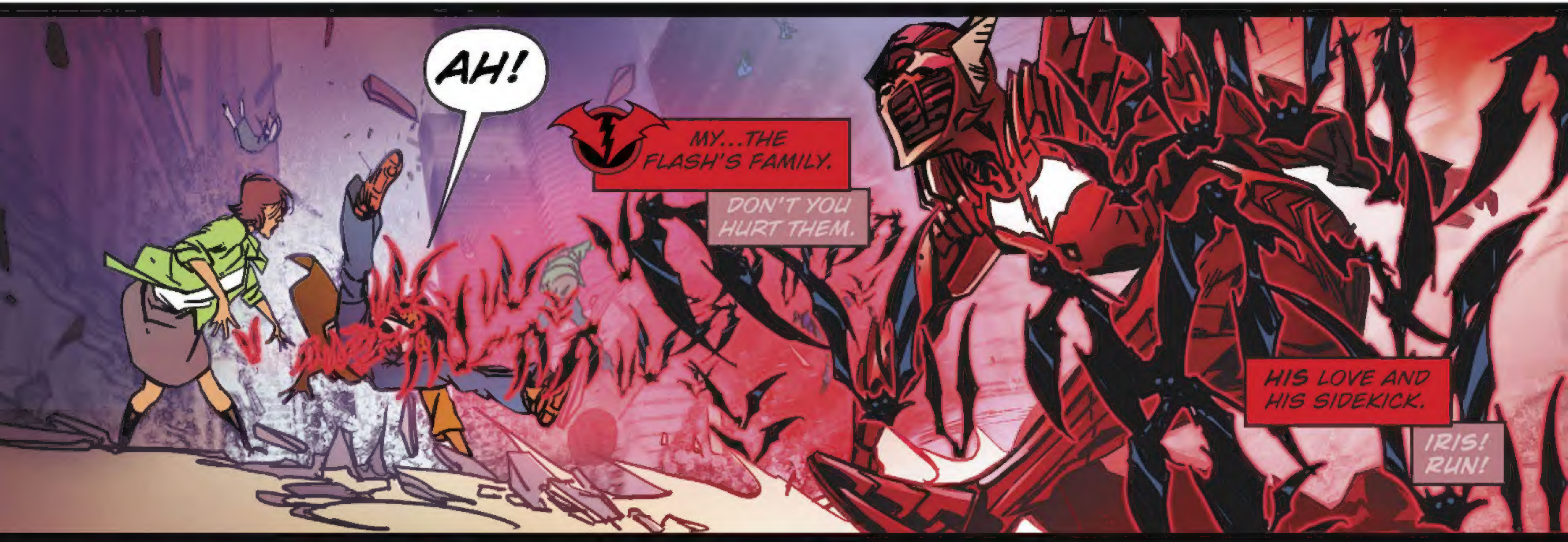
IT  
LOOKS  
LIKE...





WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE CITY?!

WHAT ARE THESE BATS--?



AH!

MY...THE FLASH'S FAMILY.

DON'T YOU HURT THEM.

HIS LOVE AND HIS SIDEKICK.

IRIS! RUN!



THE LAST SPEEDSTER WHO HURT MY NEPHEW ENDED UP DEAD.

SO I DON'T CARE HOW SCARY YOUR MASK IS... YOU LEAVE WALLY--

IRIS...?



SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE SPEED FORCE...I'M SO SLOW...



WALLY!

IRIS... YOUR HANDS...



IT'S OKAY, WALLY... WE'LL BE... OKAY...



THIS WORLD'S FLASH...HE'LL UNDERSTAND THAT IN TIMES OF CRISIS THERE MUST BE A SACRIFICE.

I DON'T KNOW WHO THE HELL YOU THINK YOU ARE...





--BUT THERE WON'T BE ANY SACRIFICES IN MY CITY!



RUNNING IS SORT OF MY THING SO THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO ESCAPE!

ONCE UPON A TIME I WAS JEALOUS OF YOURS AND CLARK'S LITTLE RACES...

...BUT NOW IT DOESN'T MATTER!



YOUR DRIFT...THOSE BATS...



...EVERYTHING HURTS...

...FEEL...

...OLD...



THERE WILL BE NO MORE RACING, BARRY.

THAT VOICE...?

BRUCE...?

IS THIS... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU AFTER YOU LEFT BLACKHAWK ISLAND?\*

\*IN METAL #1 --EDDIE.





IF THERE IS A PART OF YOU INSIDE OF THAT ARMOR, BRUCE...

THEN YOU'RE STILL **MY FRIEND...** AND IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN COUNT ON...



...IT'S YOUR **COMPASSION.**

WHAT?

BRUCE, LISTEN TO ME...



QUICKLY.

DOCTOR FATE??



WHAT'RE YOU--?!



GO AHEAD. RUN, BARRY. RUN.



IT WON'T SAVE YOU!

WE'LL FIGHT AGAIN, FLASH... BARBATOS FORETOLD THE END OF OUR STORY.



I WILL TURN CENTRAL CITY INTO THE HOME I LOST!





AND SAVE  
MY GOTHAM!

**BRUCE,  
NO!**

LET ME TELL YOU A  
SECRET. ALL IT TAKES  
IS ONE **BAD DAY...**

ONE  
MOMENT THAT SHOULD  
NEVER HAPPEN, AND THE  
GROUND BENEATH YOU  
STARTS TO CRUMBLE. TRUST  
ME. I KNOW FIRSTHAND.  
ALL OF US DO.

AND NOW THE SEVEN  
MOST DANGEROUS  
BATMEN THAT NEVER  
WERE ARE HERE TO  
DRAG YOU INTO THE  
DARK.



SO YEAH. ONE BAD DAY WILL KILL A WORLD. BUT ONE BAD WEEK?

THAT COULD KILL  
A MULTIVERSE.



**THE DARK KNIGHTS  
CONTINUE TO RISE IN**

CONTINUE TO RISE IN  
**MURDER  
MACHINE#1**